

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3495

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGEN, BU

SUBJECT: GOALS AND TASKS FOR THE U.S. AMBASSADOR: BULGARIA

REF: STATE 206533

1. EMBASSY COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR'S GOALS AND TASKS IN BULGARIA FOLLOW. REQUEST REFTEL WITH OUR COMMENTS BE DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR GARTHOFF (EUR).

2. PARA 1, REFTEL: SUGGEST ADDING WORD "FULL" BETWEEN "ENCOURAGE" AND "BULGARIAN". COMMENT: THEY AND WE WOULD SAY THEY ARE DOING SOMETHING ALREADY. STRESS SHOULD BE ON INCOMPLETENESS AND SELECTIVITY OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE TO DATE. END COMMENT.

3. PARA 4, REFTEL; POINT ON BULGARIAN RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY: SUGGEST THAT THIS POINT BE MODIFIED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "MONITOR EVOLUTION OF BULGARIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH BORDERING NATO STATES, GREECE AND TURKEY, ENCOURAGING BULGARIA TO PURSUE CORRECT AND PEACEFUL POLICY TOWARD THEM." COMMENT: EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT US SHOULD BE IN POSITION OF FOSTERING TYPE OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN BULGARIA AND ITS TWO NATO NEIGHBORS THAT WOULD ENABLE BULGARIA TO FISH WITH ANY SUCCESS IN SOMETIMES TROUBLED WATERS OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES' INTERNAL POLITICS OR THEIR SOMETIMES TROUBLED RELATIONS WITH US. END COMMENT.

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4. PARA 4, REFTEL, POINT ON MACEDONIA: SUGGEST THIS POINT BE MODIFIED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "URGE BULGARIA TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA, QUIETLY DISCOURAGING ANY EFFORTS TO FAN EMBERS OF OLD MACEDONIAN QUESTION." COMMENT: FOR US TO SPEAK OF "MACEDONIAN MINORITY" TO BULGARIANS IS TO HAVE US ACCEPT

AND BECOME ADVOCATE OF YUGOSLAV POSITION ON THIS QUESTION.
(SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, DISCUSSION OF MACEDONIAN QUESTION IN
SOFIA 1798 AND A-36.) LONGSTANDING US POSITION ON MACE-
DONIAN QUESTION HAS BEEN TO QUIETLY ENCOURAGE BOTH COUNTRIES
TO WORK OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES ON THIS QUESTION TO REDUCE
ITS POTENTIAL AS AN EXPLOSIVE ISSUE BETWEEN THEM. (ONE
EXTREME SCENARIO, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS A SOVIET-BACKED
BULGARIA ATTACKING A POST-TITO DISRUPTED YUGOSLAVIA TO
REINCORPORATE "LOST" MACEDONIAN TERRITORIES INTO BULGARIA.)
FOR US NOW TO URGE BULGARIA TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO YUGOSLAVIA
ON "MACEDONIAN MINORITY" IS TO DIRECTLY INVOLVE US IN TANGLED WEB
OF OLD, VERY PAINFUL QUESTION. INSTEAD, WE BELIEVE WE
SHOULD CONTINUE TO URGE TWO SIDES TO WORK OUT THE MATTER
PEACEFULLY THEMSELVES, AT PACE THAT TRAFFIC WILL BEAR.
END COMMENT.

5. APART FROM THESE COMMENTS, EMBASSY FINDS REFTTEL AN
EXCELLENT AND COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF US GOALS AND
TASKS FOR THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BULGARIA.
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